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INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 7885
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RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4707
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 6198
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 4624
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3215

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 001781

SIPDIS

STATE PASS BBG
STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
NSC
CMC WASHINGTON DC FOR POLAD

JERUSALEM ALSO FOR ICD
LONDON FOR HKANONA AND POL - TSOU
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (10/07): Israeli actions at
Al-Aqsa Mosque continue to lead coverage

Main Stories:

For the third consecutive day, the dailies report on the confrontations between the Israeli police and Palestinians in the old city of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa mosque. The papers quote Palestinian Liberation Organization Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat accusing Israel of intentionally creating a very dangerous situation in East Jerusalem to provoke violence so that they can justify the strict measures they will impose accordingly. Senior Fatah official Mohammad Dahlan noted that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has opened the battle of "sovereignty over Jerusalem." Israeli Vice Prime Minister Silvan Shalom confirmed Dahlan's sentiments, saying that Israel is asserting its sovereignty over Jerusalem, especially the Temple Mount area. The dailies also report that the Israeli Police arrested the head of Islamic movement in Israel Sheikh Raed Salah yesterday, accusing him of incitement against Israel and encouraging violence in Jerusalem.

The dailies report on Special Envoy George Mitchell's visit to Israel today. The coverage notes that Mitchell will conduct meetings with Israeli Minister of Defense Ehud Barak and Prime Minister Netanyahu on Friday. The coverage notes that Mitchell and Secretary Hilary Clinton are expected to submit a report on the progress made towards a resumption of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis to President Obama.

The local press highlights Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas welcoming Libya's call for an urgent session of the UN Security Council to discuss the Goldstone report. Abbas noted in a phone interview with AFP from Rome that the PA appreciates Libya's efforts and support. Abbas noted that he will send PA Minister of Foreign Affairs Riyad Malki to New York to attend this session.

The local press reports on Egyptian efforts to ensure that the national reconciliation agreement is signed in Cairo on October 22. Reporting notes that despite the decision to postpone the vote on the Goldstone report, Hamas is committed to achieving national reconciliation.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Hamada Fara'neh opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title "No hope in America" (10/07): "There is no hope that America will take a stronger position supporting the Palestinians for two reasons. The first is the powerful role of the Israeli Jewish Zionist movement in the US that doesn't allow the US to support the Palestinians. The second is that the US is busy with many internal and external problems that distract Obama's administration from focusing on ending the suffering of the Palestinian people."

2) Ibrahim Abrash opines in Al-Quds independent daily under the title "the danger behind postponing the discussion of the Goldstone report" (10/07): "Postponing the vote of the Goldstone report was a big mistake. But it is also not useful to keep investigating whether the postponement was based on US pressure exerted on the Palestinians, because it was ... We could have certainly understood the move if there was any value behind the postponement, but we don't see any."

RUBINSTEIN